IN THE CLAIMS

1-21 (canceled)

22. (currently amended) A method of conducting polymerizations in nonaqueous miniemulsions,

comprising producing a nonaqueous miniemulsion comprising reactants of a polymerization in a nonaqueous fluid dispersing medium, a surfactant and an osmotically stabilizing component, and polymerizing said reactants to yield a polymerization product, wherein said miniemulsion contains not greater than 10% by weight water, wherein a miniemulsion is formed from a disperse phase of polar reactants in a continuous apolar organic phase and wherein said osmotically stabilizing component is a hydrophilic substance, wherein the average particle size of the polymerization product is from 30 to 600 nanometers.

23. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 22, wherein the polymerization is selected from addition polymerization reactions, polyaddition reactions, and polycondensation reactions.

24. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 23, wherein the polymerization comprises an addition polymerization of acrylic or styrene monomers.

25. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 23, wherein the polymerization comprises a polyaddition of polyfunctional epoxides with at least one of hydroxy, amino and thiol compounds.

26. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 23, wherein the polymerization comprises a polyaddition of polyfunctional isocyanates with at least one polyfunctional hydroxy or amino compounds.

27. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 23, wherein the polymerization comprises a polycondensation of polyfunctional carboxylic acids with polyfunctional hydroxy or amino compounds.

28. (canceled)

29. (canceled)

30. (currently amended) A method of conducting polymerizations in nonaqueous miniemulsions,

comprising producing a nonaqueous miniemulsion comprising reactants of a polymerization in a nonaqueous fluid dispersing medium, a surfactant and an osmotically stabilizing component, and polymerizing said reactants, wherein said miniemulsion ~~contains not greater than 10% by weight water~~, wherein a miniemulsion is formed from a disperse phase of apolar reactants in a continuous polar organic phase and wherein said osmotically stabilizing component is a hydrophobic substance.

31. (canceled)

32. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 30, wherein the osmotically stabilizing component is added in an amount of from 0.1 to 40% by weight based on the overall weight of the emulsion.

33. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 32, wherein the average particle size of the emulsion is situated in the range from 30 to 600 nm.

34. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 33, wherein an emulsion is produced which is critically stabilized or thermodynamically stable with respect to an alteration in particle size.

35. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 34, wherein the emulsion further comprises dispersed therein particulate solids.

36. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 35, wherein the polymerization takes place without substantial alteration in the particle size.

37. (canceled)

38. (canceled)

39. (canceled)

40. (canceled)

41. (canceled)

42. (canceled)

43. (currently amended) The method of claim 22 ~~29~~, wherein said hydrophilic substance is water or a salt.

44. (canceled)

45. (currently amended) A method of conducting polymerizations in nonaqueous miniemulsions,

comprising producing a nonaqueous miniemulsion having a water content not greater than 10% by weight comprising reactants of a polymerization in a nonaqueous fluid dispersing medium, a surfactant and a hydrophilic osmotically stabilizing agent selected form the group consisting of water, a salt or a combination thereof in an amount sufficient to osmotically stabilize the miniemulsion, and polymerizing said reactants to yield a polymerization product having an average particle size of from 30 to 600 nanometers.

46. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 45, wherein the polymerization is selected from addition polymerization reactions, polyaddition reactions, and polycondensation reactions.

47. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 45, wherein the polymerization comprises an addition polymerization of acrylic or styrene monomers.

48. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 45, wherein the polymerization comprises a polyaddition of polyfunctional epoxides with at least one of hydroxy, amino and thiol compounds.

49. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 45, wherein the polymerization comprises a polyaddition of polyfunctional isocyanates with at least one polyfunctional hydroxy or amino compounds.

50. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 45, wherein the polymerization comprises a polycondensation of polyfunctional carboxylic acids with polyfunctional hydroxy or amino compounds.

51. (canceled)

52. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 45, wherein an emulsion is produced which is critically stabilized or thermodynamically stable with respect to an alteration in particle size.

53. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 45, wherein the emulsion further comprises dispersed therein particulate solids.

54. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 53, wherein the polymerization takes place without substantial alteration in the particle size.